The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1560 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 1941 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 31, NO. 9

FACING the FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

We're sorry that illness prohibited us from witnessing the comic spectacle of Westbrook Pegler testifying before a Congressional Committee and demanding the passage of legislation enslaving organized labor in America.

We say it must have been a comic spectacle because this man Pegler is a clown. He was not born to be serious. He is horribly miscast in the role of a "heavy", as pretentious and as full of sound and fury as an old-school Shakespearean tragedian. Pegler was meant to be a prize-fight writer. When he starts to get serious and indignant about labor and national affairs he sounds just as bad as Charlie Chaplin in the "talkies".

The New Yorker recently did a neat job in taking Pegler down a peg. This magazine, which takes a great delight in deflating public displays of silly pretentiousness, kidded the pants off Pegler's piece in which he pictured Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt as a dangerous Red. That was too much even for the New Yorker to swallow, and it stuck a few pins into Pegler's blatant stupidity where it would do the most good.

Now how in the world did Pegler ever roam so far afield as to take in labor and politics within his jurisdiction? It wasn't just an accident. It was deliberate. We don't believe he made the decision himself. We have an idea that he was led astray. And by none other than his boss, who is Roy Howard, head of the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain.

A Little Man

Roy Howard is a little man with a vast appetite for power. He works quietly behind the scenes. He has a whole string of columnists on his payroll whose articles are published in many papers outside of the Scripps-Howard chain. Thus, by influencing these columnists and by directing their thoughts in any direction he chooses, Mr. Howard manages to get his propaganda printed almost throughout the American press. Of course, most of these columnists will deny taking orders from Howard and in all fairness I don't believe they do take orders. Howard, a newspaperman himself, is not as crass as all that. He works more subtly. He uses the power of suggestion. He employs flattery. He takes the boys out on parties on his yacht, fills them with the best of food and liquor, makes them feel like big shots. And then, when they're prime, Howard will get the boys together into little huddles and start talking business. When it comes to matters of policy, he doesn't let on that he is the one who pulls the strings. He is clever enough to make the boys believe that they are making the decisions. So they leave the yacht full of inspiration, ambition and spirits and go out like good little boys and do the job Mr. Howard wanted them to do all along.

Now it would be a mistake to underestimate the power of the corps of syndicated columnists and hireling editorial writers controlled by Roy Howard. It would be just as serious a mistake to underestimate their influence on public opinion as it was for Mr. Howard to overestimate it in the last political campaign. Mr. Howard thought his boys under his expert direction were influential enough to put over Wendell Willkie as President of the United States.

The Anti-Labor Campaign

Howard, himself, was not exactly sold on Willkie but he thought he could sell him to the American people. He regarded Willkie as another of his boys. When Willkie recently kicked over the traces and refused to obey Howard's orders to oppose the lend-lease bill, Howard reportedly threatened to break him politically.

All of this brings us up to date and we now have to consider Mr. Howard's present campaign against organized labor. We must consider this in the light of the undenied charge that Mr. Howard is the "master mind" behind the scenes of the forces of appeasement in this country.

This little man with big ideas sees himself as the last champion and defender of capitalism in America. Further American involvement in the European conflict frightens him as a threat to capitalism. He fears that labor will gain greater participation and influence in the affairs of Government, as it has in Great Britain. That is why—to get back to the beginning—he has sicked Pegler and the rest of his boys against the American Federation of Labor. That is why they are all now clamoring for legislation to restrict labor.

They do it artfully. They say it is in the interests of national defense. They say employers are regulated by law, why not labor? They say the nation cannot afford strikes so we must have laws forbidding strikes.

Their arguments are stupid, short-sighted and easily punctured. We intend to devote our next column entirely to calling the turn on them. For the time being we would like to make just two observations.

The first is a warning. It is directed not only to Mr. Howard and his boys but to the press generally. It is this—the day that labor in America is denied the right to strike, that day will the freedom of the press be also denied and all our other freedoms become meaningless.

The second is a prayer of thankfulness. It is right for labor and for all America to thank God that we have in the White House in these times a true believer in democracy and a true friend of labor who cannot and will not be stampeded into any policy which leads to economic servitude for American workers.

Plans to Prevent Economic Breakdown After Defense Emergency Urged by AFL

Washington, D. C.—Stressing the importance of immediate steps "to avert mass unemployment and economic collapse" following the national defense emergency and upon the re-establishment of world peace, the American Federation of Labor presented a number of essential measures that must be undertaken to prevent these calamities. The A. F. of L. set forth its position in an article "After the Emergency—What Then?" published in the March issue of the American Federationist, official magazine of the Federation.

"Incentives for stabilizing full employment at the end of the emergency can be developed by means of taxation," the article said. "The shift from war production to peace production will be fundamentally a shift from heavy industries such as iron and steel and munitions to consumers' goods industries. Tax readjustments developed now in such a way as to make possible a reduction of the tax burden on consumption of goods and services could go a long way toward expanding the market for consumers' goods and stimulating their production.

"Planning of desirable peacetime public works should be done now so that work could be begun and employment assured on a peacetime public works program without delay.

"Provision for a post-emergency housing program for low-income families could be made most effectively if closely related to a thoughtfully conceived and soundly developed defense housing plan. Much of the administration of defense housing has been diverted from its immediate task by being made a testing ground for expensive experiments with [illegible] and untried methods.

"Yet defense housing administration can render an outstanding service to the nation if it provides the needed housing facilities for the defense workers and at the same time makes sure that most of this defense housing becomes available for post-emergency use to low-income wage earners and their families, of whom millions are still compelled to live in housing which cannot even meet the lowest standards of decency, safety and health. A balanced low-rent housing program should play a foremost part in achieving this end.

"The present program of factory allocation is guided almost exclusively by the immediate strategic, economic and sometimes even political considerations. Yet the allocation of new machinery and equipment for defense production should be tested not only in terms of the most efficient production and the safest and most desirable distribution of its essential products. Such allocation should also be tested for the availability of the plant and equipment with a view to its maximum peacetime utilization in the post-emergency period.

"Unless this is done we shall be faced with the prospect of building a network of industrial communities which are certain to become ghost towns, condemned to stand in the years to come as silent and deserted reminders of our improvidence.

"Study, planning and coordination of labor supply are no less important. Well-planned development of industrial activity for defense purposes, if thoroughly coordinated with realistic plans for the fullest utilization of the available labor supply and with development of sound and permanent housing facilities and of health and welfare services, can assure stable and healthy community growth in the future. A haphazard allocation of defense work, on the other hand, will not only make the expenditures for machinery, equipment, factory buildings and temporary shelter costly and wasteful, but will serve to set off a flow of homeless and destitute migratory labor on a scale no nation has yet seen.

"Careful planning of the post-emergency relief problem should be begun at once if the burden of unemployment and dependency in the transition from a war economy to a peace economy is not to become insupportable.

"Our great social security program should also undergo a careful revision so that through adequate tax contributions during the emergency period of intensive business activity sufficient reserves could be accumulated. This would make possible increased unemployment benefits over longer benefit periods in order to sustain the purchasing power at the beginning of the post-emergency period and to cushion the shock of sudden demobilization of the defense industries and the mass unemployment among defense workers."

Bevin Declares British Workers Fight Against Nazi Enslavement

Washington, D. C.—A strong indictment of Nazi dictatorship as the enemy of liberty throughout the world and the necessity of protecting Great Britain from its tyranny feature an article by Ernest Bevin, British Minister of Labor, in the latest issue of the American Federationist, official magazine of the American Federation of Labor.

Paying an enthusiastic tribute to the support already given Great Britain by both the American Federation of Labor and the entire American people, Mr. Bevin continued:

"In the British labor movement we were under no delusion as to what would happen once Hitler came into power. We knew that everything labor stood for would go if his regime succeeded. His object was to make a slave state. And what ruthless methods he adopted in order to achieve it! Not merely the crushing of the trade unions but also the knout, death or the concentration camp.

"The same thing has followed in his train wherever he has gone. The Nazis have taken trade union leaders and put them to death. They have stolen the money and assets of the movement. But they have not destroyed its soul—neither in the countries which they have conquered nor even in Germany where there are still remnants, probably crushed at the moment but whose resurrection is as certain as that dawn follows night.

"Is it not a glorious task whereon we are engaged—to destroy tyranny, to allow the plant of freedom to revive and the soul of man to start again on its upward course?

"We are adopting in this country far-reaching measures of organization of industry and labor in order for ourselves not merely to withstand Hitler's onslaught but to make the great offensive which will cause his destruction.

"We are translating ourselves into the position of a freely organized democracy, with each citizen submitting willingly to discipline of a character calculated to bring victory nearer. So you have the remarkable experience of seeing the British people—men and women—not only going into the forces but also engaged in fire fighting, watching for incendiary bombs and saving their homes, while others are occupied in the great hospital services."

Emphasizing the herculean efforts of the British workers and the British people generally to resist successfully the tyranny planned by Nazi totalitarianism, Mr. Bevin said:

"We feel in our very bones that we are the bastions of liberty. The words 'they shall not pass' have greater meaning than ever before because we know that we are preserving not only our own liberty but that of the whole Commonwealth. Indeed, in saving ourselves we save every lover of liberty in the world.

"But it is useless to underestimate either the power of our enemy or the task we are called on to perform. He has dragooned forces, subjugated millions of people to his will and created a vast arsenal, utilizing the labor of a population of nearly 200,000,000 people, many of whom hate him and would turn their weapons upon him tomorrow if only the opportunity presented itself.

"We in this tight little island have a working population of 17,000,000. We have to face the output of his formidable labor force and simultaneously bring goods and raw materials from overseas. And bravely the mercantile marine of our own and allied nations are doing it.

"You have only to look at these figures to understand what encouragement it gives us when we read the declarations of the great labor movement of America and realize that they see the problem in all its nakedness as we do and give expression to their great determination to supplement our production with America's and to restore balance with the productive capacity now against us.

"The courage of our forces is indeed superior to that of the Germans. It is the limitation of our productive capacity which gives them momentary superiority.

"Therefore, when we now learn that the mighty American productive capacity, together with the will of the American labor movement, is going to throw its full weight into providing the equipment necessary to win this battle for freedom, it stimulates us, heartens our men in the forces and makes us all feel that we are fighting for a greater thing than our own country—that we are spending our energy to win a great victory for freedom of the soul."

Lyons Urges United Union Support Of Movement to Aid British Labor

New York, N. Y.—Organized Labor in America has "assumed voluntarily the obligation to give all aid possible to their brother trade unionists in Great Britain," Thomas J. Lyons, president of the New York State Federation of Labor, declared in an address over Station WEVD under the auspices of the American Labor Committee to Aid British Labor.

He advocated participation by local unions of the metropolitan area in the forthcoming Aid British Labor Conference Tuesday evening, March 11, at the Manhattan Center, 34th Street and 8th Avenue.

"We know," Mr. Lyons stated, "that organized labor in the United States, accustomed to decent standards, accustomed to the adjustments of labor-management problems through free trade unions would suffer incalculable harm if we were compelled to compete in any way with the unlimited slave labor that would be at the disposal of the dictators."

Mr. Lyons outlined briefly the great political, economic and military danger to the United States of an Axis victory. He pointed out, however, that the "crisis in Europe has not found America sleeping."

He hailed the "degree of unity" achieved on a "policy of such magnitude as that of defending the independence and the democracy of our country" and declared that "organized labor stands forth as one of the most alert, most vigilant and most dynamic agencies through which the American people came to realize that their way of life was at stake."

Praising British labor and the British people for the sacrifices they had accepted "for the duration," he stated that the free trade unions of America must come to their aid "because of a sense of brotherhood that animates the labor movement, and because of the knowledge that if labor is to continue to enjoy freedom in this country, it must help to prevent the expansion of the dictatorships."

The American Labor Committee to Aid British Labor, according to Mr. Lyons, is collecting commodities for the relief of civilians, such as blankets, clothing for adults and children, medical supplies, mobile kitchens and ambulances, and funds for their purchase.

"At a time when the brotherhood of man seems to be at its lowest ebb," Mr. Lyons concluded in his appeal, "we extend the helping hand of a brother, the hand of American Labor, to our brothers in Great Britain who are fighting the great fight of democracy for all of us."

Workers Education Bureau Plans Twentieth Anniversary Conference

New York, N. Y.—The anniversary of the establishment of the Workers Education Bureau of America twenty years ago will be fittingly observed here next month. In announcing the celebration, Thomas E. Burke, president, Matthew Woll, chairman, and Spencer Miller, Jr., secretary of the Bureau, said:

"The Workers Education Bureau of America will celebrate the Twentieth Anniversary of its establishment in April of this year. On April 3, 1921, following a two-day conference at the New School for Social Research in New York City, delegates from trade unions and teachers engaged in workers' education decided to set up a central clearing-house of information and guidance for the workers' education movement in the United States. The Bureau was [illegible].

"The Executive Committee of the Workers Education Bureau, after consultation with many of its constituent bodies, has decided to celebrate this Twentieth Anniversary by a one-day conference on Saturday, April 5, 1941, in the auditorium of the New School for Social Research, at 66 West 12th Street, New York, to review the work of the past twenty years and outline a program of educational service to the labor movement for the future.

"All National and International Unions, State Federations of Labor, Central Labor Bodies, and Workers Education Enterprises affiliated with the Workers Education Bureau of America are invited to send delegates to this April conference. Credential blanks and copies of the program will be sent out presently to all affiliated members."

$500,000 PAY BOOST WON BY STEEL WORKERS UNION

Philadelphia, Pa.—Twenty-two hundred employes of Henry Disston & Sons Co., manufacturers of steel products, share in the benefits of a recent wage increase totaling a half million dollars annually negotiated by Saw, File and Steel Products Workers Union No. 2254, A. F. of L. affiliate, of Philadelphia.

The increase consisted of a flat ten cent raise retroactive to February 1, 1941, with either the union or the company given the option to reopen the question of wages at any time conditions warrant such action.

In addition to the general 10 per cent wage increase the minimum for learners has been raised from 33½ cents an hour to 53 cents per hour. Approximately 300 learner operators received increases of 24 per cent, raising their rate from 42½ cents per hour to 52½ cents per hour and establishing the 52½ cents as the minimum starting rate for learners.

The American Federation of Labor was represented by Organizer John J. Lorden of the Philadelphia A. F. of L. office.

News Briefs

BOOKBINDERS FORMING WOMEN'S AUXILIARIES

Washington, D. C.—In pursuance of a resolution passed at the recent convention of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, an International Women's Auxiliary is now being formed. It will be composed of local auxiliaries which are being organized in many cities.

The purpose of encouraging the formation of these Women's Auxiliaries, which are composed of women members of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders and women relatives, is to coordinate the activities for union labels, shop cards and service buttons.

"Charters are being issued to Women's Auxiliaries of local unions throughout America," said I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer, Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor. "Not only are these ladies' auxiliaries growing," he said, "but the demand for union label goods and union services is steadily increasing in every community. Through these Women's Auxiliaries the ladies have become an important factor in the success of our campaign for the union label, shop card and service button."

RADIO COMPANY PROTECTS DRAFTED EMPLOYES' JOBS

Pittsburgh, Pa.—The American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Manufacturing Corporation has assured its employes, who are members of various organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, that if they volunteer or are drafted into the Service in the national defense program the company will carry the life insurance of such employes for one year, that their seniority will accumulate and that they will be placed back on the jobs they left upon their return from the Service.

The company has also assured the employes who enter the Service that upon passing examination and being accepted by the Government they will be given thirty days' pay when they leave for the Service.

DR. CHARLES STELZLE, LABOR'S FRIEND, DIES

New York, N. Y.—Dr. Charles Stelzle, a Presbyterian minister, who had written and lectured extensively on labor problems and had served as a public relations counselor, died in the Murray Hill Hospital at the age of 72, following a period of ill health.

Born on the Lower East Side, Dr. Stelzle was educated in the public schools. From 1885 to 1893 he was a journeyman machinist, and later an instructor, at the plant of R. Hoe & Co., manufacturer of newspaper presses.

In addition to founding the Labor Temple here, Dr. Stelzle organized the national labor department of the Presbyterian Church. In 1918 he was director of publicity for the departments of labor and churches of the American Red Cross. He served as executive director of the Good Neighbor League from 1936 to 1939 and was New York City relief director in 1914 and 1915. For many years he was a feature and editorial writer for the labor press and had written many books on labor topics. He was instrumental in bringing about the observance of "Labor Sunday" in 1914.

Dr. Stelzle was a delegate to the annual conventions of the American Federation of Labor from 1905 to 1915, and was field secretary of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America from 1916 to 1918.

BUILDING PERMITS GAIN FORTY-EIGHT PER CENT

Washington, D. C.—Building permit valuations during January, 1941 were more than 48 per cent higher than during the same month of last year, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins reported. "Although all classes of construction shared in this increase, the greatest gain was in new non-residential buildings for which permit valuations were 87 per cent ahead of January, 1940," she said.

D. C. PRINTERS UNION GAINS WAGE INCREASE

Washington, D. C.—Approximately 700 printers on Washington's four daily newspapers will receive a pay raise of $1 per week and two week's vacation with pay under a new 3-year contract signed between Columbia Typographical Union, No. 101, and the publishers.

The wage increase for newspaper printers will become effective next November 11. Compositors in the book and job industry were also recently granted a wage increase by an arbiter.

BRICKLAYERS' OFFICIAL ELECTED MAYOR OF SHARON

Sharon, Pa.—Thomas Bailey, who has served for 20 years as secretary and treasurer of the local affiliate of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers International Union, has been elected mayor of this city.

Mayor Bailey was formerly Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvements. In addition to serving as an officer of his own union, he has been president of the Sharon Building Trades Council for nine years.

AFL Offers Revised Amendments For Wagner Labor Relations Act

Five-Man Labor Board With Curb on Its Power To Fix Bargaining Units and Changes in Representation Procedure Urged

Washington, D. C.—The 1940 convention of the American Federation of Labor unanimously urged that certain amendments to the National Labor Relations Act be made.

These amendments have been incorporated in the bill introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Ramspeck of Georgia at the request of the American Federation of Labor. The bill seeks to enlarge the membership of the National Labor Relations Board to five, limits the power of the board to determine appropriate bargaining units, deprives the board of the authority to change a certification for a year, provides methods for speeding the board's procedure, and gives bona fide labor organizations the right to appeal in representation cases.

In explaining the amendments, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, made the following statement on behalf of the A. F. of L. Executive Council:

"The necessity for some of the American Federation of Labor amendments submitted to previous sessions of Congress has been eliminated by recent court decisions which have since given the act the interpretation that the Federation has always contended for and sought by its proposed amendments prior to such decisions.

"The Federation is now submitting a revised set of amendments that will serve the dual purpose of strengthening weak spots and obviating the possibility of a repetition of prior maladministration in the more important of its functions.

"The Federation is requesting Congress to enlarge the board to a membership of five. Nothing has been more amply established than that the board cannot render its decision expeditiously enough. Delays have occasioned great hardships to working people, employers and the public. By adding two members to the present board a major source of this difficulty will be removed. The present board is overworked. It cannot handle the great mass of cases that come before it with the speed that Congress contemplated and the purposes of the act require.

"Our bill provides that 'three members of the board shall at all times constitute a quorum.' Because of changes in the personnel as originally constituted we do not at this time think it necessary to resubmit our original amendment calling for the abolition of the existing board and the creation of a new one.

"We are requesting Congress, too, to adopt our recommendations which limit the absolute power heretofore claimed by the board to determine appropriate bargaining units. By so doing, any board, present or future, will be prevented from imposing upon the workers of this country the type and form of organization which the individual members of the board may prefer, in total disregard of the desires of the employes themselves. It has been demonstrated that the greatest source of abuse by the board in the past grew out of this uncontrolled and unreviewable power over units.

"Another amendment which the Federation proposes will go a long way toward stabilizing industrial relations and insuring industrial peace. The amendment will deprive the board of the power to change a certification for a period of a year and will also deprive it of the power to change a bargaining representative for a period of a year where that bargaining representative has been recognized under a valid union agreement.

"Our amendment also provides methods for greater speed and efficiency in representation cases. Until now the board has construed the act to require a full formal hearing before it may certify an exclusive bargaining representative. Even if all parties to the proceeding consent to an election without a formal hearing, the board has refused to grant formal certification to the representative selected by the majority. The amendment provides for the issuance of a formal certificate to the designated representative when formal hearing has been waived. In addition, time limits within which the board must grant or deny certification are set forth.

"Finally, we propose an amendment which would grant to bona fide labor organizations the right of appeal in representation cases. The need for such an amendment has been abundantly demonstrated. Valuable, and ofttimes basic rights of labor unions are conclusively determined in representation cases. Under the present law labor unions are denied the right to appeal from decisions of the board in such cases. It is in accord with traditional American concepts that the labor union have its day in court to appeal from decisions that directly affect its interests. This amendment will overcome the injustice pointed to and commented upon by the courts in the Longshoremen's case, in which case the board wiped out American Federation of Labor bargaining units in several cities by declaring the entire West Coast to constitute a single unit for collective bargaining, and this without affording the aggrieved union the right of review in court."

70,000 Rail and Express Workers Get $7,000,000 Boost in Wages

Washington, D. C.—Pay increases of more than $7,000,000 annually became effective March 1 for an estimated 70,000 employes of the nation's railroads, Railway Express Agency, Pullman Company, car loan, and terminal companies. These workers have been receiving lower wages than specified in the minimum wage orders established by General Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, United States Department of Labor.

The order establishes a minimum wage of 36 cents an hour for employes of trunk line railroads and 33 cents an hour for short lines. These rates were recommended by the railroad carrier industry committee, appointed under the Fair Labor Standards Act, after an extensive investigation and public hearings. By far the largest group of workers affected by the order will be maintenance of way workers, including crossing, bridge flagmen, and gatemen. It will also include clerical and station workers, some shop laborers, red caps, dining car waiters, and kitchen workers.

Of the million or more workers employed on the nation's trunk lines it is estimated that 65,000 will receive wage increases under the order, including Pullman Company, Railway Express Agency, car loan, and terminal company employes. Of the 21,000 employes of the short line roads, 5,000 will be affected.

Included in the list of employes to benefit by the establishment of the minimum wage will be certain employes of electric railroads which are a part of the steam railroad system.

According to figures submitted by the railroads 26,000 of those employed at less than 36 cents an hour were employes of railroads classed as "western lines"; 24,000 by "southern lines," and 6,000 by "eastern lines."

MISS ANDERSON OUTLINES DEFENSE WORK OF WOMEN

Washington, D. C.—The importance of women workers in the national defense program was emphasized by Mary Anderson, director of the Women's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, in a radio address over Station WJSV of the Columbia Broadcasting System in the Labor News Review program of Albert N. Dennis.

Pointing out that there are "not far from two million women in need of regular, permanent employment," Miss Anderson outlined in detail the various types of work that women are able to perform in preparing the nation for complete defense.

"The Women's Bureau advocates the maintenance of good labor standards for all women on defense jobs," she said.

"Hours of work should be moderate, preferably not to exceed 8 a day or 48 a week. Wage rates should be based on occupation, not on sex or race of the worker. Good plant sanitation, scientific lighting, adjustable seats, protection against industrial accidents and diseases—these are also highly essential. All such measures mean better workers, greater and finer output, and a speeded up defense program. Our whole defense program is just a means to an end. Its aim is the preservation of our democracy, its guaranteed equality, opportunity, and security for all our citizens—women as well as men."

AFL INSURANCE AGENTS WIN 6 NLRB ELECTIONS

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor won six National Labor Relations Board elections when the agents employed by the Life Insurance Company of Virginia in Detroit, Mich., Cincinnati, Ohio, Norfolk, Newport News and Alexandria, Va., and the agents employed by the Peoples Life Insurance Company in Richmond, Va., voted for the American Federation of Industrial and Ordinary Insurance Agents Unions to represent them in collective bargaining, George L. Russ, A. F. of L. organizer, announced.

In Detroit [illegible] ballots were cast for the AFL affiliate and only four against. In Cincinnati, the vote was 27 for the AFL and six against. In Alexandria the AFL union won by a vote of 9 to 5, in Newport News by a vote of 9 to 2, and in Norfolk 22 agents voted for the AFL and none against it. In Richmond 23 Peoples Life Insurance agents voted for the AFL, the opposition casting only eight votes.

These victories are significant in view of the fact that the Washington, D. C., agents of the Life Insurance Company of Virginia are already under contract with the AFL, and the Peoples Life agents in Staunton, Norfolk and Portsmouth, Va., Washington, D. C., and Wilmington, Del., have already voted for the AFL and negotiations are under way for contracts for these districts.